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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/611,409

06/30/2003

Steven M. Fischer

10010632-3

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22878 7590 05/05/2008

AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES INC.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION,LEGAL DEPT.

MS BLDG. E P.O. BOX 7599

LOVELAND, CO 80537

EXAMINER

TUNG, JOYCE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1637

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/05/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

IPOPS.LEGAL@agilent.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/611,409

Applicant(s)

FISCHER, STEVEN M.

Examiner

Joyce Tung

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 February 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-34, 42 and 43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-34 and 42-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SI/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The response filed 2/1/08 to the Office action has been entered. Claims 21-34 and 42-43 are pending.

1. The rejection of claim 43 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement is withdrawn because of the applicant's arguments.
2. Claims 21-31, 33-34 and 42-43 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmidt et al. (WO 99/02728, issued January 21, 1999).

Schmidt et al. disclose that in one arrangement, a series of DNA fragments is provided by contacting a template in the presence of DNA polymerase with a mixture of nucleotides sufficient for hybridizing to the template for forming a second strand of DNA complementary to the template. The mixture comprises a set of four probes containing all four nucleotides for hybridizing to the template in which the nucleotide of each probe comprises a modified nucleotide, which is capable of polymerizing to the second strand of DNA, but blocked to prevent further polymerization and which is cleavably attached to the mass label. The mass label is identified by mass spectrometry for the modified nucleotide (See pg. 3, paragraph 5 and pg. 4, paragraph 1). The mass label is corresponding to a modified nucleotide so that the nucleotide present in the target template may be deduced (See pg. Paragraph 4). The cleavage is done by photolysis or chemical cleavage (See pg. 12, paragraph 2, pg. 13, paragraph 2, pg. 46, paragraph 4). Ligation is also used to produce extended products (See pg. 12, paragraph 1 and 3). The cleavable tag is a 3' cleavable tag (See pg. 46, paragraph 5, fig. 4a and fig. 13) in which the cleavable tag is attached to the 3' end.

Schmidt et al. do not explicitly disclose the cleavable tag is an acid or base cleavable tag as recited in claims 29 and 30. However, Schmidt et al. disclose that the cleavage is done by photolysis or chemical cleavage (See pg. 12, paragraph 2, pg. 13, paragraph 2, pg. 46, paragraph 4). This teaching is inherent that the cleavable tag is an acid or base cleavable tag. Thus, the teachings of Schmidt et al. anticipate the limitations of Schmidt et al.

The response filed 2/1/08 discussed the teachings of Schmidt et al. on page 2, lines 1-8 and 25-29. This argument is persuasive in terms of the claim limitations not being taught.

However, Schmidt et al. also have another disclosure which read on the limitations which is discussed in the response. The response argues that Schmidt et al. do not teach "cleaving said 3' cleavable tag from said extension product to produce a cleaved tag, not bound to said at least one complementary nucleotide, and an extension product that includes said at least one complementary nucleotide hybridized to said template nucleic acid sequence". Nevertheless, Schmidt et al. teach extension of a sequencing primer by incubating a template with nucleotide triphosphates, mass labeled deoxynucleotides and a DNA polymerase (See pg. 16, full second paragraph). Extension of the primer is blocked due to the presence of blocking groups on the mass labeled deoxynucleotide which prevents the 3' OH of the deoxynucleotide reacting with the 5' triphosphates of further nucleotides. The unique mass labels are attached to the deoxynucleotide by a cleavable linker group. Cleavage is carried out by laser light. The mass label is released into solution of analysis (See pg. 16, full second paragraph and fig. 4a). This teaching reads on the limitations as recited in the claims. Therefore, the rejection is maintained.

3. Claim 32 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt et al. (WO 99/02728, issued January 21, 1999) as applied to claims 21-31, and 33-34 in view of Cheeseman et al. (5,302,509, issued Apr. 12, 1994).

The teachings of Schmidt et al. are set forth in section 2 above. Schmidt et al do not disclose that the cleavable tag is a fluorescent tag.

Cheeseman et al. disclose a method for determining the sequence of nucleotides on a single strand DNA in which the cleavable tag is a fluorescent tag (See column 2, lines 57-59 and column 6, lines 11-13).

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to apply a fluorescent tag for the cleavable tag because Cheeseman et al. apply fluorescence a cleavable tag for nucleic acid sequencing. It would have been prima facie obvious to apply a fluorescent tag for the cleavable tag for nucleic acid sequencing.

The response does not have a specific argument regarding the rejection. With the same reasons as set forth in section 2 above, the rejection is maintained.

Summary

4. No claims are allowed.

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joyce Tung whose telephone number is (571) 272-0790. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on 571 272-0782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kenneth R Horlick/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1637

Joyce Tung
April 29, 2008